

Soldiers celebrate Army birthday *Kunsan Patriot warriors don new black beret*

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Happy 226th U.S. Army!
More than 600 Department of the Army soldiers and civilians celebrated this year's Army birthday with a large contingent of Army family members and friends during a ceremony held in the Pentagon's center courtyard June 14.

While Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki and Army Secretary Thomas White each talked of the Army's proud past as an institution, they focused more on its people and future.

Tilley said that soldiers, with their discipline, spirit, courage, values and sacrifices, remain the Army's bedrock.

Shinseki recalled the heroics and sacrifices of Army veterans.

He spoke of Capt. Sam Bird, a soldier who extended his command tour during the Vietnam War to lead an attack and was severely wounded; Daniel Morgan, who led outnumbered American forces against the British during the American Revolution; Mary Walker, who remains the only woman and civilian to be awarded the Medal of Honor for her work as a battlefield nurse during the Civil War; Gen. Matt Ridgway, who restored hope, morale and discipline to a force that had been driven from the Yalu River by overwhelming numbers of Red Chinese infantry during the Korean War; and Master Sgt. Gary Gordon, another Medal of Honor awardee who was fatally wounded saving the lives of an Army air crew when their helicopter had been shot down in Somalia.

White thanked soldiers and civilian employees for their service and challenged them to be totally committed to Army Transformation so that the Army will remain the world's dominant land force.

Speaking about the Army's new black beret, he praised Shinseki for standing fast amid the controversy that ensued following the announcement it would be adopted by the entire Army as a symbol of Transformation. The secretary then recalled how his 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment aero rifle platoon wore it during the Vietnam War and those platoon members who make it to the regiment's reunion in August would arrive wearing it again.



Courtesy photo

Members of the U.S. Army 1/43rd Air Defense Artillery (Patriot) Foxtrot Battery here celebrated the Army's 226th birthday in a ceremony June 14, which also included donning of the new black beret.

Eighth U.S. Army had a 14-hour head start on celebrating the Army's birthday in Korea. In a mass 25,000-strong ceremony, Eighth Army soldiers lead the Army in donning the black beret. News clips of that ceremony aired on many television networks starting when most Washingtonians were just waking up and were repeated throughout the day.

White and Shinseki had started Army Birthday observances early in the morning with a simple wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery just a few miles southwest of the Pentagon. Following the Pentagon celebration, both brought Vice President Dick Cheney a piece of Army birthday cake at the White House. Shinseki continued to mark the 226th with a visit to the Old Soldiers and Airmen Home.

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Keene flew to New York City where he closed the New York Stock Exchange by ringing the official bell to mark the anniversary of the Army's establishment.

Mosquito season brings health concerns

By Senior Airman Michael Agnew
8th Medical Group

Summer is finally here! With summer comes warm weather, cookouts and those pesky mosquitoes.

Besides being a nuisance, mosquitoes can be a health problem. Here in South Korea, they can transmit diseases such as malaria and Japanese encephalitis, but the risk is minimal at Kunsan Air Base.

According to Kim Yongso, 8th Medical Group public health technician, the risk of acquiring malaria here at Kunsan is very low, however, the threat is significantly higher along the demilitarized zone. Malaria is transmitted by the female Anopheles mosquito, which feeds primarily at dusk and early evening.

"The threat of Japanese encephalitis is also very low," Kim said. However, one case occurred

with a Korean civilian last year.

Japanese encephalitis is transmitted by a subspecies of the Culex mosquito. Kim also pointed out that even though the risk may be minimal, these diseases are serious. Use of insect repellent is essential, and the most effective way you can protect yourself against these diseases.

"Mosquitoes need standing water to lay eggs and reproduce," said Tech. Sgt. Rusty Pickard, 8th MDG public health NCO in charge. "Any object that collects and holds water for more than five days is an ideal mosquito breeding area. You can do your part in controlling mosquitoes by eliminating breeding areas around your living areas and workplace."

The public health office is doing what it can to study the mosquito population here.

"We have begun the mosquito surveillance program by setting out

traps to capture mosquitoes and determine their population," said Kim. "We then report the results to the entomology shop. Based on these surveillance results, entomology sprays in those problem areas to eliminate mosquitoes and mosquito larvae."

The current times for fogging are from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday and Thursdays at dusk and dawn as needed, according to Tech. Sgt. William King, 8th Civil Engineer entomology NCO in charge.

"If you notice the mosquito light traps around the base please do not tamper with them, they are for your benefit," said Kim.

If you feel you are receiving more than your fair share of mosquito bites, call entomology at 782-5295. Also, if you need more information about protection against mosquitoes, contact public health at 782-4510.

Ways to help control mosquito problems

- *Empty anything that is capable of holding water (tires, jars, bottles, etc.).
- *Repair outside leaky plumbing and water faucets.
- *Do not allow water to collect in water pots.
- *Keep grass short and pull out tall weeds.
- *Minimize time spent outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.
- *Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- *Wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time.
- *Wear light-colored clothing made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from skin.
- *Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure.
- *Use mosquito repellent according to directions.